

### Classroom Blogging Guidelines, ELANCO

1. Any teacher who wishes to create student blog accounts for their class must read and familiarize themselves with the Kidblog terms of use found here: <http://kidblog.org/about.php> before use with students. Click on "TOS" at the bottom of that page to view the terms of service.

The terms of use require us to get "explicit" permission from parents before students are allowed to begin using the blogging platform.

***"Membership Policy***

*You must be at least 13 years or older to register for this Service. Users under the age of 13 must use an account created by a Member over 13 years old. Kidblog is uniquely designed for teachers, students, librarians, administrators, parents, and anyone else involved in education. The Member registering (or maintaining/ moderating) a class account (and subsequently creating and/or adding students/users to the account) is responsible for obtaining **explicit permission** of a parent or guardian of any users under 13 who use the Service within the Member's class account."*

2. A teacher who wishes to create a class account and individual student blog accounts must obtain written permission from parents in order for the child to participate. This will come in the form of a signed permission slip (see attached).

3. Teacher guidelines for use:

- Students should be identified by first name only. Use a number at the end of first names to distinguish between students with the same first name.
- All blogging activities should be focused on learning objectives, determined by the ELANCO curriculum.
- Teachers will introduce and consistently review with the class appropriate online etiquette for posting and commenting on blogs.
- Teachers will help students learn and adhere to the student blogging guidelines found below.
- Teachers are responsible for reading and monitoring students' posts, comments, and providing constructive feedback.

## Student Blogging Guidelines

As a student blogger at Brecknock Elementary School, you are expected to follow these blogging guidelines below. Use the questions in *italics* to help you decide what is appropriate to post on your blog.

- 1. Only post things that you would want everyone (in school, at home, in other countries) to know.** *Ask yourself: Is this something I want everyone to see?*
- 2. Do not share personal information.** *Ask yourself: Could someone find me (in real life) based on this information?*
- 3. Think before you post.** *Ask yourself: What could be the consequences of this post?*
- 4. Know who you're communicating with.** *Ask yourself: Who is going to look at this, and how are they going to interpret my words?*
- 5. Consider your audience and that you're representing Brecknock Elementary School.** *Ask yourself: Do I have a good reason/purpose to do this?*
- 6. Know how to give constructive feedback.** *Ask yourself: What will I cause by writing this post?*
- 7. Treat other people the way you want to be treated.** *Ask yourself: Would I want someone to say this to me?*
- 8. Use appropriate language and proper grammar and spelling.** *Ask yourself: Would I want this post to be graded for proper grammar and spelling?*
- 9. Only post information that you can verify is true (no gossiping).** *Ask yourself: Is this inappropriate, immature or bullying?*
- 10. Anytime you use media from another source, be sure to properly cite the creator of the original work.** *Ask yourself: Who is the original creator of this work?*

**Commenting Guidelines** As a blogger, you will be commenting on other people's work regularly. Good comments:

- are constructive, but not hurtful
- consider the author and the purpose of the post
- are always related to the content of the post
- include personal connections to what the author wrote
- answer a question, or add meaningful information to the content topic
- follow the writing process; comments are a published piece of writing

### Brecknock Elementary Student Blogging Permission Form

Our class is embarking on the adventures of blogging this year, to extend our thinking and connect our ideas with each other and other students and educators around the world. We will be utilizing the Kidblog.org as one of our many writing tools. Kidblog.org is designed for elementary and middle school teachers who want to provide each student with their own, unique blog.

Each teacher will create a class account on Kidblog.org, where each student will be assigned an individual account. No email addresses are required and there are safety measures in place by site administrators.

*"Kidblog's simple, yet powerful tools allow students to publish posts and participate in discussions within a secure classroom blogging community. Teachers maintain complete control over student blogs."*

Teachers will assign blogging tasks that align with curricular objectives. Students will learn about appropriate blogging and commenting etiquette, and teachers will moderate student work. We're very excited about this collaborative learning opportunity for our students! Please read the attached Student Blogging Guidelines for more details.

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**Please sign and return this portion of the form to your child's teacher as soon as possible, indicating permission for your child to use this platform for blogging/writing/reflecting in the classroom.**



\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, my child has permission to utilize Kidblog.org as a writing tool in the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**, my child does not have permission to use blogging as a learning tool. I understand that my child will still be responsible for completing any related writing assignments and collaborative work in an alternative fashion without this tool.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_